TV KEY PREVIEWS

Today's top shows as previewed by reporters in Hollywood, New York and Pittsburgh.

8:00 p. m. (2) (10)—The Carol Burnett Show. For her Valentine's Day offering, Carol picks a horror movie spoof, "House of Terror," and casts Vincent Price as the mad scientist about to experiment on bride Burnett. Harvey Korman appears as Igor the dwarf, and Vicki Lawrence is the 500-year-old Mom. Price also delivers a reading and guest Eydie Gorme joins her hostess for a big medley of the hits from the musical "Gypsy."

8:00 p. m. (13)—A Public Affair/Election '72. "Man in the Middle." An illuminating portrait of a most important figure in American politics seldom dealt with intelligently on American TV — the typical middle-class family. Tonight, you'll see why a family in suburban Illinois, having a combined income of about $15,000 annually, continually feels worried about money, and how this feeling of being economically pinched affects their political views.

Today's TV Highlights

7:00 p. m.—2—Carol Burnett. Guest star Vincent Price brings all of his ghoulish humor to a spoof of the great horror movies of the past, and Eydie Gorme joins Miss Burnett in a medley of songs from "Gypsy." In a comedy sketch, Miss Burnett plays an elevator operator attempting to calm her panicky passengers when the elevator gets stuck on the 15th floor.

7:00 p. m.—7—Courtship of Eddie's Father. Guest Sammy Davis Jr. stars as an insurance actuary who is obsessed with the subject of safety. Bill Bixby and Brandon Cruz star.

7:30 p. m.—5—Mystery Movie. "Blueprint for Murder." Peter Falk makes his directorial debut and stars as Lt. Columbo in a drama in which the city foots the bill to dig up a huge building pylon in search of the body of a missing man. Forrest Tucker, Janis Paige, and Patrick O'Neal are guest stars.

7:30 p. m.—7—Comedy Hour. Ed Sullivan plays host on this edition of the Kopykats to guest Will Jordan, who is credited with being the best Ed Sullivan impersonator of them all. Kopykat regulars are George Kirby, Frank Gorshin, Rich Little, Marilyn Michaels, Charlie Callas, and Joe Baker.

9:00 p. m.—5—Night Gallery. Cornel Wilde as a turn-of-the-century surgeon, Geraldine Page as a frightened wife, Jack Albertson as an exporter, and Bobby Darin as a leading mobster star. Rod Serling is the host.

9:00 p. m.—11—Election Special. "Man in the Middle." To assess the apparent mood of discontent among many middle-class Americans, correspondent Robert MacNeil lived for several days with a suburban Chicago family. He reports on what he learned.

10:30 p. m.—5—Winter Olympics. Coverage from Sapporo, Japan of men's giant slalom, men's 50-kilometer cross-country ski, and women's 500-meter speed skating.